

TANFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
For the Year 1920.

DIPTON :
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STANLEY,
May, 1921.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my report for the year 1920, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Tanfield Urban District. As far as practicable, the form of this report is that required by the Ministry of Health in their memorandum issued for the guidance of Medical Officers.

In following this memorandum, it is impossible to avoid a certain amount of repetition of information contained in previous reports, but as the Ministry of Health wishes to have it, this information is again included.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population.

According to the Census of 1911, the population of the Urban District was 10,105. The estimate of the Registrar-General for the year 1920, is 10,063.

Physical Features.

The Tanfield district is situated between 120 and 850 feet above mean sea level, and has an area of 4,779 acres. The district is scattered and there is no indication of any rapid development, since it can be seen from the figures of the population that this has been stationary for a number of years.

The urban district might be classified as semi-rural, though the main industry is coal-mining; but many of the pits are of a comparatively great age and denuded of their best seams.

The district is bleak and rather damp and is exposed to the prevalent North-East and West winds, the depth of the surface soil is moderate.

The sub-soil is mainly of a clayey nature and the sub-stratum is the carboniferous, with out-cropping coal measures.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

During the year 1920, there were registered in the district 360 births, (169 males, 191 Females). This gives a birth-rate for the past year equal to 35.77 per thousand population as compared with the rate of 30.25 in the previous year.



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The rate for 1920, compares very favourably with the rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 25·4, and also with the rate for the County which was 30·02. The number of births in the preceding 6 years was 305, 254, 243, 259, 272 and 337 respectively.

The corrected number of illegitimate births was 13, (8 males and 5 females), giving a birth-rate of 1·29 per thousand population, and a rate of 36 per thousand children born.

DEATHS.

Allowing for transferable deaths, the total deaths belonging to the district in the past year was 116 in number.

This gives a death rate equal to 11·52 per thousand population as compared with the rate of 12·4 for the whole of England and Wales, and 12·31 for this County. The totals for 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914, were 146, 151, 128, 133, 142, and 136 respectively, and the corresponding rates for these years were 15·08, 16·19, 13·7, 14·03, 14·68 and 12·5.

Infantile Mortality.

32 deaths, or 27·6 per cent. of the total, occurred under the age of 1 year, in comparison with 37 in 1919, 28 in 1918, 23 in 1917, 33 in 1916, 36 in 1915, and 56 in 1914. The total for 1920, gives an Infantile Mortality rate equal to 88·88 per thousand births registered as against rates of 121·31, 110·23, 94·65, 127·4, 132·3, and 166·1 in the six preceding years.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the whole of the County was 106 in the past year. Included in the total deaths of infants for the past year is 13 deaths (equal to 40·6 per cent) due to immaturity.

The following table compares the various rates for the Tanfield Urban District with those of the County of Durham per thousand population :—

			Tanfield.		County.
Birth-rate	..	...	35·77	...	30·02
Death-rate	...	..	11·52	...	12·31
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	·39	...	1·0
Small Pox	..	..	nil	...	nil
Scarlet Fever	..	...	·09	...	·10
Diphtheria	...	...	·09	...	·17
Enteric Fever	...	...	nil	...	·01
Measles	...	...	·19	...	·20
Whooping Cough	...	...	nil	...	·11
Diarrhœa under 2 years	...	...	nil	..	·38
Diarrhœa over 2 years	...	...	nil	...	·08
Phthisis	...	...	·49	...	·75
Acute Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2·08	...	2·55
Influenza	...	...	nil	...	·23
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	88·88	...	106

Table XV.—Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1920.

(Provisional Figures). Provisional population estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purpose of this table.

The Mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales.

Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Population.									
	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.
England & Wales 25·4	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·19	0·04	0·01	0·15	0·28	0·48	80
Tanfield ... 35·77	11·52	nil	nil	·19	·09	nil	·09	nil	·59	188·8

The following table gives the causes of death at all ages of Males and Females in the district :—

	Males.	Females.
Measles	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	nil
Diphtheria	1	nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	4
Other Tuberculous Disease	3	3
Cancer	7	3
Rheumatic Fever	1	1
Meningitis	1	nil
Organic Heart Disease	4	5
Bronchitis	8	3
Pneumonia	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	nil
Nephritis	2	2
Parturition	nil	2
Congenital Debility	10	3
Violence	5	1
Other defined diseases	17	15
Causes ill-defined	nil	1
Total	66	50

Poor Law Relief.

The amount paid in Poor Law Relief in the district last year was £753 as compared with about £600 in the preceding year.

Hospitals, Etc.

The Hospitals and Institutions available for the gratuitous medical relief of residents are as follows :—Royal Victoria Infirmary and other Infirmaries, Newcastle ; Poor Law Hospital, Lanchester ; Isolation Hospital situated in the district ; Small Pox Hospital, Lanchester.

Sanatorium treatment and a tuberculous dispensary are supplied by the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The Weardale and Consett Water Company provide the whole district with water. This supply is laid into all properties with the exception of between 20 and 30 isolated premises.

Some of these latter procure their water from the main supply and others from neighbouring wells, notably some of the farms.

This want of a direct supply gives rise to much inconvenience, as frequently the amount available at the wells is inadequate.

The well waters are analysed from time to time, and so far are found to be pure ; but where water passes under cultivated land there is always an imminent risk of contamination. Further, where the surface is unstable on account of underground workings, there is always a possibility of the cessation of the supply.

Under normal conditions the Company's supply has been adequate in this area, but it must be remembered that new housing schemes and an increase of the water-carriage system in the Water Company's area will make new demands on the supply.

Sewage Disposal.

In the district there are 4 sewage disposal works, 2 cess-pools and the remainder of the sewage is treated by broad irrigation, there being in all, 10 centres. In a previous report in 1919, I went into the subject of the inadequacy of the sewage disposal works in the district in detail and made suggestions for removing the defects. The remarks I made in that report still hold good, and I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by their repetition at the present time.

At Tanfield Lea, new Bacteria sewage disposal works have been constructed to meet the increased demands of that part of the district. These works consist of catch pit, grit chamber, 2 settling tanks, a dark chamber, and 2 rough and 2 fine filters. The tanks and chambers are completed and a start will shortly be made with the filters.

A new 9-inch sewer has been laid from these works to the boundary of Messrs. Joicey's Housing Scheme. The new works are designed to deal with the sewage from about 250 houses. 16 new drains have been provided in the district and 4 were reconstructed. All new drains are inspected and tested with either water or smoke.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year, 86 insanitary privies and ash pits were abolished, 10 being converted into water closets and 75 to ash closets of a modern type. 11 water closets and 9 ash closets were built.

There are **now** in the area the following conveniences :—

Water Closets ...	...	225
Ash Closets ...	...	1,742
Ashpit Privies ...	...	250
Ash Bins (movable) ...	...	25

The following figures, giving the number in 1910, are inserted for comparison :

Water Closets ...	...	78
Ash Closets ...	...	1,060
Ashpit privies ...	...	950

During the year it was found necessary to serve only two notices for defective or foul water closets.

The conveniences of the following Public Houses were greatly improved :—

Commercial Hotel, Tantobie.

An old midden-privy was abolished and a water closet and dry ashpit was provided, also a new urinal in place of the old one.

“ Oak Tree ” Inn, Tantobie.

The old urinal was renovated and a roof provided. A water closet was put in for the use of the house.

“ Waggon ” Inn, White-le-Head.

The old urinal on the east side of the house has been demolished and a new one with water closet has been built on the north end of the house.

“ Pack Horse,” Burnopfield.

The old midden-privy here has been abolished and a water closet and dry ash-pit has been provided.

Public Conveniences.

Plans were approved for a new convenience to be built at Burnopfield.

Tantobie and Pickering Nook Conveniences.

The walls of the stalls have been cemented and the taps enclosed in a small brick chamber.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

This work was carried out by contract, the district being divided into four sections. New contractors commenced on the 1st April, 1920, since when the work has been fairly well carried out. There was, however, a tendency to neglect the work for any other carting that came along. The attention of the contractors was continually drawn to the necessity of thoroughly cleansing and disinfecting the ashpits and adjoining ground.

During the first three months of 1920, the work was very badly done by the old contractors who were paid 10/7 per house with an additional $27\frac{1}{2}\%$ for the last five months. They had in employment 6 but carts, later lost one of their horses, and their inability to obtain reliable men further reduced the number of carts to 4, which was quite inadequate. Consequently, the work was practically at a standstill and carts had to be employed to carry out the neglected work. This cost over £108. This amount was deducted from the original contractors but about £51 was later returned to them. New tenders were asked for and two districts were let at 25/- per house, one at 22/-, and one at 21/- per house, the total cost of scavenging in the district during the year was almost £2,300. The Council decided to carry out the work mainly by direct labour, and in consequence, two motor vehicles are being purchased.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Your Inspector of Nuisances reports to me as follows :—

Inspections during the Year.

Regular inspections of the district have been made for the purpose of detecting nuisances ; supervising the removal of house refuse, and the works in progress for the abatement of nuisances, &c., such inspections numbering in all 2,964 as totaled in the following table :—

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Factory and workshops	...	...	...	10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	6
Cowsheds and dairies	...	...	...	40
Slaughter houses and butcher shops	...	...	...	48
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	5
Stables	...	...	...	10
Premises—complaints	...	...	...	6
„ —scavenging	...	...	...	1,597
„ —nuisances or defects	...	...	...	1,035
Houses—Infectious diseases...	...	...	...	33
„ —Housing record	...	...	...	79
Works in progress—Drains, Water closets, &c.	...	...	...	95
Total				2,964
Interviews—Improvements required, &c.	...	...	...	99



Nuisances.

Informal notices were served requiring the abatement of 206 nuisances, and in 29 cases the matters were reported to the Council, and the necessary Statutory notices served. A large number of nuisances in addition to those shown on the following table were abated without delay on the attention of the occupiers of the premises being drawn to them.

Summary of Nuisances dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

NUISANCES.				No of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	No. of Nuisan- ces abated after Notices.
Dwelling houses, foul conditions	...	...	...	15	1	17†
„ structural defects	...	...	...	52	8	44†
„ overcrowding	...	...	...	3	1	2
„ yard paving	...	...	...	4	nil	1
Schools, structural defects	...	...	...	2	nil	1
Drainage, to provide drainage	...	...	...	2	nil	1
„ to re-construct drainage	...	...	...	1	nil	1
„ to repair and clear drainage	...	...	...	25	1	25
Ashpits and privies defective	...	...	...	32	17	31†
Ash-closets, defective	...	...	...	35	1	33†
Water-closets, defective	...	...	...	2	nil	5†
Scullery sink waste pipes defective	...	...	...	3	nil	2
Dairies and cowsheds, foul conditions and defects	...	...	...	4	nil	2
Factories and workshops,	„	„	„	1	nil	1
Slaughter houses,	„	„	„	2	nil	2
Animals and fowls improperly kept	...	...	...	2	nil	10†
Fried fish shops, foul conditions	...	...	...	1	nil	1
Accumulations of refuse or manure	...	...	...	8	nil	8
Other nuisances	...	...	...	12	nil	11
† Includes Notices served 1919				206	29	198

The following table gives a summary of the work done under the Public Health Acts.

Houses and premises cleansed	...	...	...	17
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	2
House roofing repaired	...	...	...	35
House spouting repaired or renewed	...	...	...	81
House floors renewed	...	...	...	4
House yards relaid with cement	...	...	...	2
Lighting of rooms, staircases, etc., improved	...	...	...	47
Other repairs to houses	...	...	...	94
Scullery, slop sinks and waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	3
House gullies repaired or renewed	...	...	...	57
Insanitary privies abolished	...	...	...	86
Water closets provided	...	...	...	21
Ash closets provided	...	...	...	84
Ash pits or bins provided	...	...	...	12
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	5
Ash closets repaired	...	...	...	65

Ash pits or bins repaired or renewed	...	...	9
Drains constructed	--	...	17
Drains re-constructed	...	...	4
Drains repaired or cleared	...	...	24
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	15
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	4
Animals or fowls removed from yards	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	8

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
<i>Factories.</i>				
Factories and Workshops...	...	10	1	Nil.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

		Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness in out-offices	...	2	2
Defective sanitary accommodation	..	1	1

LIST OF REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Blacksmiths	...	...	1
Bakers ...	...	...	3
Cycle Repairs	...	...	2
Dressmakers	...	...	1
Joiners and Cartwrights	...	...	6
Motor Repairs	...	...	2
Paper Mill	...	...	1
Boot and Shoe Makers	...	...	1
Boot Repairs	...	...	4
Tailors ...	...	...	3
Timber Works	...	...	2
Watch Repairs	...	...	1
			27

Schools.

The schools are all well ventilated and lighted and the sanitary conditions are in good order, each school being provided with water from the public service. The children of the various schools are periodically examined by the County School Medical Officers who work in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health. It was not found necessary during the past year to close any of the schools on account of infectious diseases.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 30 cow-keepers and 1 purveyor of milk within the area, other purveyors coming in from the outside. The approximate number of cows kept was 184, housed in 32 cowsheds. The majority of the byres are of an old type, being deficient in lighting, ventilation and good drainage. Faults can also be found on account of the want of cleanliness in some, and they are also unsatisfactory with regard to regular whitewashing. Inspections were made as regularly as possible and notices were served for limewashing, cleansing, etc., when necessary. No fault was to be found with the utensils used, either as to cleanliness or storage.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 6 slaughter houses in your area situated as follows :—

Tantobie	...	...	3
Burnopfield	...	...	2
Toftgate	..	...	1

These were frequently visited and it was found necessary to serve only one notice for limewashing and cleansing, and this work was done. No other defects or nuisances were found.

Unsound Food.

130 lbs. of bacon were found to be unwholesome and unfit for human consumption. This was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed before being offered for sale.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

153 cases of infectious diseases were notified in 1920 as compared with 322 in the previous year, 172 in 1918, 380 in 1917, 108 in 1916, 143 in 1915, 117 in 1914.

The following table gives a summary of cases notified and compares 1920 with the six preceding years :

DISEASES.				1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914
Diphtheria	...	...	...	15	10	5	13	15	21	27
Erysipelas	...	...	...	13	7	16	14	9	23	16
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	35	48	30	39	43	47	30
Enteric fever	...	...	...	nil	3	nil	nil	1	2	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	8	4	1	2	1		4
Puerperal fever	...	...	...		nil	1	1		1	nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..			22	7	18	17	12	19	17
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...			30	12	19	26	21	30	17
Measles	...	..	...		217	82	263	1	not	no' flbl
German measles	...	...	...		nil	nil	5	5		do
Pneumonia	...	...	...	26	24	not notifiable				
Malaria	...	...	...		nil			do		
Dysentery	...	...	...	4	nil			do		
Total	...	...	...	153	332	172	380	108	143	117

Diphtheria.

The number of cases reported in 1920 was higher than the previous year, but was about the average of the preceding 6 years. The disease was present in the months of January, February, March, July, August, September and December, with 3, 4, 2, 1, 1, 1, and 3 cases respectively. There was one death from this disease, the patient succumbing before removal to hospital could take place. 12 patients were removed to hospital and 2 were isolated. Seven specimens were sent for Bacteriological Examination, two of which proved to be positive, four were negative and one gave an inconclusive result.

Erysipelas.

13 cases were notified last year as against 7 in 1919, the total for 1920 being slightly less than the average number for the preceding 6 years. There were no deaths from this disease.

Scarlet Fever.

The total cases of Scarlet Fever reported last year, 35, is less than the number in the previous year, when 48 cases were notified, and is less than the average number in the six preceding years. With the exception of May, the disease was present each month, but was most prevalent in January, when 13 cases were notified, and in February, when 5 were reported. Thus the first two months of the year accounted for more than half the total. There was only one death. 34 patients were removed to hospital, and 1 was isolated.

Enteric Fever.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever reported last year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

8 cases were reported last year as compared with four in 1919, one in 1918, two in 1917, one in 1916, nil in 1915, and 4 in 1914 respectively. Probably the increase in the last two years is due to better notification of the disease. None of the patients suffered permanent injury to the eyes, and any case reported which requires hospital treatment is removed whenever accommodation can be obtained.

Puerperal Fever.

There were no cases of this disease reported in 1920.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

22 cases of this disease were notified last year in comparison with 7 in the previous year. The figures in 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915 and 1914 were 18, 17, 12, 19 and 17 respectively. There were 5 deaths during the year as against 3 in 1919, 6 in 1918, 10 in 1917, 8 in 1916 and 8 in 1915. All cases are promptly notified and are sent to the County Tuberculosis Dispensary at Stanley.

Other forms of Tuberculosis.

Under this heading, the number of cases notified also showed an increase, notably among children of school age. They were 30 cases reported as compared with 12 in the previous year and 19, 26, 21, 30 and 17 in the 5 years preceding 1919. There were 6 deaths as compared with 1, 6, 6, 8 and 7 in 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916 and 1915 respectively.

Pneumonia.

The number of cases reported was 26, being 2 more than were notified in the previous year. The worst month was May, when 8 cases were reported, there being 4 in January, 1 in February, 2 in March, 5 in April, 8 in May, 1 in October and 5 in December.

There were 9 deaths or 34·6% of the number of cases attacked. Without doubt, in many cases the cause is climatic.

Malaria.

No cases of this disease were reported.

Dysentery.

Four cases of this disease were notified in 1920. In two cases the disease had been contracted abroad. The other two cases (who were children) contracted the disease from one of these latter patients. In this case, the man had contracted the disease abroad in India and was engaged to take charge of cows for a private milk supply. Whilst working at this he was suffering from a dysentery attack and communicated the disease through the milk to the children of the house in which he was working. There were no deaths from this disease during the year.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

This disease is not notifiable as from the beginning of the year. It was present more or less during the whole year, but was more prevalent in the first two months and resulted in two deaths.

Whooping Cough.

This disease has not been very prevalent during the past year, only isolated cases occurring. There were no deaths.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis.

Infantile diarrhoea, though present in the summer months, did not assume epidemic form. There were no deaths from this disease.

Influenza.

Though this disease was present practically the whole year, it assumed a much milder form than in previous years. A notable characteristic of the disease in the past year was a special affection of the spinal nerves. There were no deaths.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The centre at Burnopfield was opened for 24 meetings in 1920 and the total attendances were :—

Infants under 1 year	...	...	294
Infants over 1 year	...	...	92
			<hr/>
Total	...		386

On the books at present the number of children are :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	56
Over 1 year	...	...	...	85
Total				141

A member of the County Medical Staff attends at each meeting and examines every baby.

NURSING.

A Nursing Association commenced in this district towards the end of May, 1920. At present there are on the staff one general nurse and one trained mid-wife. The following is a list of the cases nursed during the year :—

Medical	...	...	43
Surgical	...	...	27
Midwifery	...		4
Others ...	...	...	6
Total			80

The total number of visits paid were 1,731. This Association is filling a long felt want in the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Adoptive and Local Acts.

The following Adoptive Acts, etc., are in force in this district :—

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.
 Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
 Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3.
 Private Street Works Act, 1892.
 Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, Part 4.
 Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5.
 Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Bye-laws.

Removal of House Refuse.
 Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ash Pits and Cess-pools.
 Nuisances.
 Common Lodging Houses.
 New Streets and Buildings.
 Slaughter Houses.

Bacteriological Examinations.

During the year, 20 specimens were sent for bacteriological examination. This number was made up by 7 from Diphtheria and 13 from Phthisis suspects. Of these, 2 of Diphtheria and 3 Phthisis were positive, 4 Diphtherias and 10 Phthisis were negative and 1 Diphtheria was inconclusive.

HOUSING.

NEW PROPERTY.

Council's Scheme.

There are 24 houses in course of construction at Tanfield Lea, 18 of which are slated in, good progress is being made with the remaining 6. 12 of the houses are the B 17 type, which consist of 3 bedrooms, parlour, kitchen, scullery, with separate bathroom and water closet upstairs. 12 are the B 18 type, which, except for minor details, are the same as the B 17.

Other Schemes.

The only private houses being built in the district are part of a scheme for new houses at Tanfield Lea, built by Messrs. James Joicey and Company. 60 of these houses are in course of construction, about half being slated in and the remainder in every stage of construction. These houses consist of 3 bedrooms, living room, scullery, kitchen and combined bathroom and water closet. They are of bungalow type.

OLD PROPERTY.

Garribaldi Place, Lintz.

Plans have been approved for the reconstruction of the houses Numbers 11 to 20. The roofs are to be removed and the walls carried higher to give extra height in bedrooms. Sculleries, bathrooms and water closets, also self-contained yards are to be provided for each house.

Busty Bank, Burnopfield.

Numbers 51 and 52. The roofs are to be removed and the walls raised. Numbers 50 and 52 have to have new food stores and a bathroom will be added to Number 50. Each of the houses will have water closets provided.

West Street, Tanfield Lea.

Plans were submitted for the reconstruction of 6 low cottages here but were rejected on the grounds that there was no bathrooms being provided.

"Syke House," Leazes.

Plans have been approved for the provision of a bathroom and new out-offices and drains.

The following improvements have been carried out at various properties during the past year.

Havelock Terrace, Tantobie.

General repairs are being carried out to 8 tenements here including new spouts, walls and repairs to roofs. There still exists a deficiency of out-offices, and this is receiving attention.

Hobson's Houses, The Quarry, Tantobie.

New out-offices have been provided on the South-East side of these houses including self-contained concrete yards.

Riley's Houses, The Quarry, Tantobie.

Two insanitary privy ash-pits have been abolished, and ash-closets, also coal-houses provided.

34, South View, Tantobie.

This house has been closed for a considerable time owing to colliery damages, but has been repaired by the Colliery Company, and is now occupied. Other property in the same street has been repaired including number 21, at which there were two privy ash-pits converted to ash-closets.

Pringle's Cottages, Tantobie.

These are two very old houses where temporary repairs are being carried out, including the conversion of an old privy ash-pit to an ash-closet.

7, John Street, Tantobie.

This house was practically demolished by colliery workings. It has been rebuilt and is almost ready for occupation.

Reading Room, Tantobie.

A very insanitary privy and two ash-pits have been demolished, and a water-closet and dry ash-pit were substituted in their place.

No. 4, Hawthorn Terrace, White-le-Head.

Repairs to spouting and windows have been done to these tenements, also a water-closet is in course of erection.

Hunter Street, White-le-Head.

Minor repairs have been carried out and others are in hand.

Hall's Buildings, White-le-Head.

No. 28 and 29 have had repairs to roofs and spouting, all the exterior walls were cemented. A proper stair case was provided in No 28 to replace the dangerous step ladder. A larger window was provided in the living room and new windows in the upstairs bedroom giving more light and ventilation.

Union Club, Tantobie.

A new drain has been laid at this property, and a very insanitary inspection chamber re-modeled.

Hill Top.

4 cottages had general repairs to rooms, roofs, walls, windows and out-offices.

Esther Pit Cottages.

General repairs as above, and in addition a new fireplace was put into one of the bedrooms which was very damp.

The Bothy, Toft Gate Farm.

General repairs were done here.

Mountsett.

General repairs were done at numbers 10 to 15 including front walls being rough-cast and cemented, and the back walls pointed. The interior of these premises is unsatisfactory, very low dark rooms upstairs with step ladders as the only access. There are no back doors.

Syke Lane, Leazes.

6 back to back houses have had general repairs.

High Friarside.

Nos. 17 and 25 have had general repairs.

Clough Dene.

At Nos. 4 and 7 a very old midden privy has been demolished and replaced by an ash-closet for each house.

Office Square, Lintz.

General repairs are being carried out to this property though it is condemned. Repairs are being done to the roofs, spouts and drains. The insanitary ash-pits being converted into ash-closets of a modern pattern, and five new ash-closets were erected. Each house now has an ash-closet.

At the other colliery property in Lintz, substantial improvements have been made including larger windows for the upper rooms, stair cases in place of dangerous step-ladders and windows on stair heads. Repairs have also been done to the roofs and spouting, and the out-offices have been converted from privy ash-pits to ash-closets.

Further suggested improvements would be the provision of self-contained yards and sculleries.

Rose Cottages.

Two midden privies have been converted into ash-closets, and a water closet was provided. Improvements further required here include the paving of the back ground, and pointing of the walls when the weather is favourable, and the provision of a gully for one of the cottages.

Middle Friarside.

6 houses owned by the colliery company have been improved by the provision of water closets inside, in place of 3 privy middens. A back street has been made at the rear. When the weather is favourable, pointing will be done to the walls and roofs. Nos. 17, 18, 19 have had repairs to the roofs and spoutings, and a better road is being made to them.

High Friarside.

Very insanitary privy middens have been abolished. At No. 6, a brick paved yard has been cemented, and a water closet has been provided.

Leazes House Farm.

The waste water from this house, and the two cottages adjoining was discharged on to a field in front of the property. A council sewer was extended to within 100 feet of the houses, and the drains were connected to this. 3 water closets have been provided to replace two insanitary privy ash-pits, and practically the whole of the drains were re-constructed.

Causey Bank Well House.

This house was very damp, and was without drains, waste water being thrown on to the ground. A dry area has been provided round the house, one of the room floors was taken up, and cemented underneath, new spouting has been done, the roof pointed, drains put in with a gully near the door, and the area adjoining the back door was cemented.

Bob Gins.

Plans were approved for the alterations of Nos. 1, 2, 3 to provide sculleries and back doors for two of them which were not through houses, the third to have a suitable food store, and to convert the old privy ash-pits into ash-closets. Repairs were done to all the roofs, spoutings and walls, and the other work is in hand.

George, Edward & William Street, Tanfield Lea.

General repairs have been done to the roofs, spouts and walls of those houses.

King Edward and Margaret Terraces, Tanfield Lea.

General repairs have been done here, and defective out-office doors have been replaced by "Mowbray Hatches."

Bowes Terrace, Hobson.

2 back to back houses have been converted into a single dwelling.

ROADS and STREET WORKS.

Street works have been completed at Pickering Nook, Eden Place, East Tanfield, and also Federation and Mitchell Streets, Tantobie, and are now being carried out to the street of the houses at the top of Crook Gate Bank. Plans have been approved by the Council for Martha and Clarence Streets, Tantobie, and plans have been prepared for Causey Old Row and the approach to George and Edward Streets, Tanfield Lea. Private improvements have been carried out at Back William and Front Street, Lintz.

The following roads have been re-surfaced during the year :—Barcus Close, Rowlands Gill, part of the Tantobie to Tanfield Lea road. Clough Dene, etc.

Application has been made to the County Council to have the following roads classified under the Classification of Roads Scheme :—Pickering Nook to Tantobie and Tanfield Lea, first-class roads ; Rowlands Gill, second-class road. From Walter Willson's, Tantobie, to the boundary at the West-end of Tantobie, second-class road.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	10,063
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	...	11·52
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1·09
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	...	88
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	2,091
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	nearly all.
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	...	nil.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	99
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	10
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	85

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

(1)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	40
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning,
&c., Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—					
	(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	nil

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	52
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—					
	(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	44
	(b) by Local Authority in defaults of owners	...	...	...	...	nil

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 19 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	10
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1)	Name of area	nil
(2)	Acerage	nil
(3)	Number of working-class houses in area ...	nil
(4)	Number of working-class persons to be displaced	nil

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919 nil

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer :—

The Surveyor of the Council is in charge of the Housing Scheme, but is provided with a competent Architect and Surveyor.

The clerical work is carried out by the Clerk's department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. BENSON, D.P.H.,
Medical Officer.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
TANFIELD.

